

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
June 14, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:31 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Father Theodore Poteres – Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral

President Hardaway asked for continued prayer for Planning & Building Director, Ms. Gregor and to the families affected by the Orlando tragedy. President Hardaway expressed sincere condolences to the Widing family, for the passing of Ron Widing Sr.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Minchuk was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

President Hardaway read a letter from the Merrillville High School Leader's Academy thanking the Town of Merrillville for their generosity.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated June 14, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. President Hardaway commented on an article in the Post Tribune regarding response times by Prompt Ambulance. Discussion among the Town Council followed. A meeting was set up with Prompt Ambulance for Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich thanked parties involved for the installation of the playground at Forest Hill Park and commented on the project status. She mentioned there has been a steady stream of youth at Pruzin Park taking advantage of the free breakfast provided by Merrillville Community School system. Ms. Orlich stated there is still room for anyone interested in participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Contact the Park Office for entry applications. Ms. Orlich provided an update on the upcoming Park events. Mr. Pettit suggested working together with Ms. LaMarca & Ms. Orlich to address issues related to Union Park in an effort to clean up that area of Broadway. President Hardaway commented that the Merrillville High School is discontinuing their Senior Service program and requested that Ms. Orlich look into incorporating their Senior Service program with the Town's. President Hardaway requested to have vandalism signs displayed at each park that indicate vandals will be prosecuted. Ms. Orlich is currently working with Mr. Bushemi to create policy that will address these types of concerns and agreed to have the vandal signs displayed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca had no report. Mr. Pettit questioned the status of the Town of Merrillville entry signs. Mr. Spires provided an update for this matter.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron encouraged everyone to continue to save caps.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway provided an update for the 6 lots located on Broadway that are currently up for tax sale. He said these properties are on the agenda June 15<sup>th</sup> at the County Commissioners. President Hardaway stated the property located at 122 W. 55th Avenue is scheduled for demolition on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. He also provided an update related to various properties boarded up with plywood as well as the status of rental registrations for vacant properties.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-15:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, creating the LOIT 2016 Special Distribution Fund (retroactive to May 20, 2016) to receive a one-time distribution of LOIT funds, to account for the restricted use of said funds and appropriating money from the fund for local road and street uses as specified by I.C. 6-3.6-9-17 (h). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Mr. Pettit stated for the record the total is \$674,523.00. Mr. Bushemi clarified that this ordinance is to appropriate the funds that the State has provided for the purpose of road repairs. There was no further discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-16:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Donation fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-17:** Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks non-reverting budget for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-14:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville amending the municipal code to enact a municipal street and road repair tax. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Mrs. Barron expressed the importance of passing the ordinance. All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall. Discussion among the Council followed. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (1 abstention).

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 16-17:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the Police Department General fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 16-18:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the Police Department Equipment fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 16-19:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the Parks Non-Reverting fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** HGR Development, LLC  
**Owner:** MGW LLC  
**Request:** Variance of use approval  
**Purpose:** For a proposed firearms retail & indoor gun range facility & having education gun safety training as part of the Point Blank Range & Gun Shop.  
**Location:** 8600 Louisiana Street  
**Zoning:** M-1, Limited Industrial  
**Case #:** Z20UV3-0516  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Mr. Pettit applauded Point Blank for the willingness to listen to Town Council concerns and was able to adapt to change. There was no further discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Petitioner:** HGR Development, LLC  
**Owner:** MGW LLC  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** For a proposed firearms retail & indoor gun range facility & having education gun safety training as part of the Point Blank Range & Gun Shop.  
**Location:** 8600 Louisiana Street  
**Zoning:** M-1, Limited Industrial  
**Case #:** Z21E4-0516  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Heritage Academy of Arts & Technology  
**Owner:** Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese, Gary St. Peter & Paul Church  
**Request:** Special exception approval in an R-2, single family residential zoning district.  
**Purpose:** For a proposed charter school to occupy the existing vacant school building.  
**Location:** 5885 Harrison Street  
**Zoning:** R-2, Single Family Residential  
**Case #:** Z22E5-0516  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote.

**Petitioner:** Duyen Ngoyen  
**Owner:** Cindy Weiss  
**Request:** Variance of use approval in a C-2, community commercial zoning district.  
**Purpose:** To provide a service for permanent makeup cosmetics (facial) specializing in 3D micro blading technique.  
**Location:** 354 E. 80th Place  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial  
**Case #:** Z24UV4-0516  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Barron suggested that the Town consider waiving the permit fees for a sign at Chapel Hill Farms Subdivision as they are a non-profit POA. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve waiving the permit fees for the sign. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Hardaway congratulated Chas Reilly & his wife on the birth of their son.

Environmental Resource Committee meeting, June 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.  
Plan Commission meeting, June 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.  
Town Council workshop, June 22, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.  
Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, June 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.  
Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, June 23, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.  
Town Council meeting, June 28, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Barron and seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

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Richard Hardaway, President

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Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer